



Training Benefits Program Report Summary

December 2009

In 2009, the Legislature passed [ESHB 1906](#), which directed the Employment Security Department to submit an annual report about the Training Benefits Program¹. Specifically, the department was directed to provide the following information:

- Participant demographics;
- How long people typically received training benefits;
- Type of training received;
- Participant employment and wage history; and
- Administrative costs.

Data for this report came from Employment Security records of Training Benefits participants for 2002 through June 2009. A telephone survey of 959 people who participated in the program in 2007 and 2008 also was conducted to provide information on employment after exiting the program.

Demographics

- Male, 51 percent; female, 49 percent
- Age 41 and over, 72 percent; age 51 and over, 37 percent
- Caucasian: 72 percent
- Former manufacturing employees: 43 percent
- King, Snohomish or Pierce county residents: 62 percent

Benefit duration

The average duration of training benefits was 22 weeks. The average weekly benefit amount was \$367. In addition, participants drew, on average, another 23 weeks of regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Training type

Of the 959 Training Benefits participants in 2007–2008 who were surveyed for this report, 195 had completed their training and were employed. Of those, 61 percent felt that the training was very relevant to and helped them get their current job.

Claimant employment and wage history

Average pre-tax earnings of participants increased by \$600 each quarter following approval in the Training Benefits program during the three years studied. Three years after applying for training benefits, participants were earning, on average, 95 percent of their pre-layoff earnings.

¹ Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1906

Administrative costs

The Employment Security Department historically has spent about \$1.1 million a year to implement the Training Benefits Program. There are two major functions that drive program costs:

- 1) **Caseload-associated activities** — tasks and services associated with clients seeking and gaining eligibility to the Training Benefits Program. These activities fluctuate as the demand occurs.
- 2) **General administrative/oversight** — core functions essential to operating the Training Benefit Program, which includes supervisory and administrative roles, human resources, fiscal and budget, communications and office services.

For more information, contact the Office of Policy & Legislation at 360-902-9394.